

"alarming rapidity of the destruction" of the original biota of the island that is taking place, "due to the introduction of goats and cats. Already," it is stated, "many plants and three birds are gone and others are reduced to very small numbers, and the whole island seems threatened in the near future with absolute desolation — doomed to become a barren rock." The three birds that have already become extinct are the Caracara (*Polyborus lutosus*), a Wren (*Thryomanes brevicauda*), and a Towhee (*Pipilo consobrinus*). While the island is uninhabited at present by man, it is overrun by "between six and eight thousand" goats; cats are also numerous, and the house mouse (*Mus musculus*) has become well established. In the present paper 17 species are recorded as taken, several of them in large series, and two others as seen by Mr. Brown and his assistants. The list is copiously annotated with field notes made by the collectors, who were on the island from May 1 to June 28, but too late for the breeding season of most of the species. The Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia becki* Rothschild and Hartert, based originally on a single specimen), of which 27 specimens were taken, is said to be "absolutely indistinguishable in any way" from the mainland form. While this is not quite true, the under wing covers being marked more or less with dusky streaks, instead of being unmarked as in the mainland form, the difference is thought by the A. O. U. Committee to be too slight to warrant the recognition of the island form as even a subspecies.— J. A. A.

**Bangs on Birds from Western Colombia.**<sup>1</sup>— The basis of these 'Notes' is a small collection made in northwestern Colombia, just south of Darien, by Mervyn G. Palmer, a region hitherto ornithologically little known. "Although it contained but 110 species and subspecies, it is rich in rare and new forms," and should subsequent installments from Mr. Palmer prove of equal interest a list will be published of the birds of the region. In the present paper 5 forms that appear to be new are described and notes are given on a few other species.

In another paper of the same date<sup>2</sup> Mr. Bangs separates the Colombian form of *Rhynchocyclus sulphureus* as *R. s. exortivus* subsp. nov.— J. A. A.

**Bangs on Costa Rican Birds.**<sup>3</sup>— The present paper includes notices of 35 species and subspecies, two of the latter being described as new. Most of the forms are rare, and the relationships of some others are considered. Thus the author's *Scotothorus verapacis dumicola* proves to have been founded on "differences due to individual variations." The known range of several of the forms mentioned is here extended. The paper is based

<sup>1</sup> Notes on Birds from Western Colombia. By Outram Bangs. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, XXI, pp. 157-162. July 27, 1908.

<sup>2</sup> A New Tyrant-Bird from the Santa Marta Region of Colombia. By Outram Bangs. *Ibid.*, p. 163.

<sup>3</sup> Notes on Some Rare or not well-known Costa Rican Birds. By Outram Bangs. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XXII, pp. 29-38, March 10, 1909.

on collections made for the author by Mr. C. F. Underwood from December, 1907, to June, 1908.—J. A. A.

**Ridgway on New Genera, Species, and Subspecies of Tropical American Birds.**<sup>1</sup>—Of the 16 new genera here described, 9 belong to the family Formicariidæ and 7 to the family Furnariidæ; the 3 new species and 8 new subspecies, belong to the families Furnariidæ and Dendrocolaptidæ. In a foot-note (p. 74) the genus *Myrmelastes* is considered as inseparable from *Myrmeciza*, and *Myrmelastes lawrencii* Salv. and Godm. is stated to be the immature male of *Gymnocichla cheiroleuca*, and *M. corvinus* Lawr. (= *M. ceterus* Bangs) to be the same as *G. nudipes*.—J. A. A.

**New North American Birds.**—Mr. E. W. Nelson<sup>2</sup> has described a new thrush from Tamaulipas, Mexico, as *Catharus mexicanus smithi*, it differing from *mexicanus* in having shorter wings and tail and longer tarsi, and also slightly in coloration.

Messrs. Thayer and Bangs have recently described<sup>3</sup> a new form of the Snowy Egret from San José Island, Gulf of California, about sixty miles north of La Paz, as *Egretta candidissima brewsteri*, on the basis of its large size, especially evident in "the enormously heavy legs."

Mr. Joseph Grinnell has proposed the addition of "three new Song Sparrows"<sup>4</sup> from California. One of them is from "the extensive marshes at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers," and while resembling *Melospiza melodia gouldi* Baird (= *M. m. samuelis* Baird) in coloration, it is larger with a heavier bill, which is markedly more swollen at the base, and is hence named *M. m. maxilaris*. The second is the *M. m. gouldii* Baird, revived, which has of late been referred to *M. m. samuelis* as a synonym. A recent reëxamination of a large amount of material by the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature, including specimens furnished by Mr. Grinnell, has failed to convince the Committee of the propriety of its recognition (see *antea*, p. 301). The third is from the vicinity of the Salton Sea and suitable localities along the Lower Colorado River, and is named *M. m. saltonis*. This form is considered by the same Committee (see *antea*, p. 301) as not separable from *M. m. fallax*, as commonly recognized—in other words, that *saltonis* is the Desert Song Sparrow of the arid Southwest. The type of *fallax*, unfortunately, proves not to be quite typical as to locality, being a winter specimen and a migrant, but *fallax*

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<sup>1</sup> New Genera, Species and Subspecies of Formicariidæ, Furnariidæ, and Dendrocolaptidæ. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XXII, pp. 69-74, April 17, 1909.

<sup>2</sup> A New Thrush from Mexico. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XXII, pp. 49, 50. April 17, 1909.

<sup>3</sup> Description of a New Subspecies of the Snowy Heron. By John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs. Proc. New Engl. Zool. Club, Vol. IV, pp. 39-41. April 29, 1909.

<sup>4</sup> Three New Song Sparrows from California. By Joseph Grinnell. University of California Publications in Zoölogy, Vol. V, No. 3, pp. 265-269. April 9, 1909.